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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN
UNIT 25416
FPO AP 96601-6405

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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From: Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 117
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) VAW-117 1995 Command History
(2) Battle Efficiency/AEW Excellence Award Input
(3) Commanding Officer's Biography
(4) Photograph of Commanding Officer
(5) Photograph of E-2C Hawkeye

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted.


M. A. TRONGALE

VAW-117 COMMAND HISTORY 1995

1. Command Composition and Organization

a. Mission

VAW-117 is an Airborne Early Warning (AEW) squadron operating the E-2C Group II Hawkeye aircraft. While the E-2C was originally designed for "Blue-water" AEW, innovative Hawkeye crews have proven their platform to be extremely adaptive and effective in every environment. Current mission capabilities include: battle space management, command and control, strike interdiction, search and rescue control, fighter control, and traditional airborne early warning.

b. Organizational Structure

Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 117's operational chain of command:

Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN
Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group FIVE
Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

c. Commanding Officer: Commander N. A. Trongale

d. Permanent Duty Station: NAS Miramar

e. Number and Type Aircraft Assigned:

Four E-2C Group II Hawkeyes

Buno 164108 - Side 600
Buno 164354 - Side 601
Buno 164352 - Side 602
Buno 164483 - Side 603

2. Chronology

a. FLEETEX: 22 Jan - 05 Feb

b. JTFEX: 12 Feb - 24 Feb

c. Deployment WestPac '95: 11 Apr - 09 Oct

- d. Opportune Lift (VAW-115): 13 Mar - 29 Apr
- e. Inspired Alert 95-3 (Pakistan): 26 May - 30 May
- f. Beacon Flash 95 (Oman): 27 May - 30 May
- g. Nautical Artist 95 (Saudi Arabia): 08 Jul - 11 Jul
- h. Iron Agate 95 (UAE): 21 Jul - 26 Jul
- i. Operation Southern Watch: 26 May - 02 Sep
- j. Change of Command: 02 Sep
- k. TSTA I/II: 07 Dec - 13 Dec
- l. USCG Operation Dorsal Fin (USCG): 27 Dec 95 - 05 Jan 96

***Embarked 222 days during CY 95**

3. Narrative

Completing the final phases of the pre-cruise work-up schedule in February 95, the Wallbangers departed on WestPac '95 in April with the Lincoln Battle Group and Carrier Air Wing ELEVEN. Shortly after their departure, the Wallbangers received recognition for their cost consciousness by receiving the CINCPACFLT Annual Pricefighter Excellence Award. In June, the Wallbangers participated in Inspired Alert. This offered them the opportunity to work with the Pakistani Air Force controlling overland simulated strikes and to utilize CVW-11 assets to protect the Lincoln Battle Group during surface warfare exercises. The Wallbangers also participated in bilateral exercises Nautical Artist, Iron Agate, and Beacon Flash in which the Bangers demonstrated combined joint arms capability and helped foster diplomatic and political relations with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Oman. Shortly thereafter, the Wallbangers entered the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Southern Watch, enforcing UN sanctions against Iraq. In the Gulf, the Wallbangers recorded an impressive 100% sortie completion rate during Operation Southern Watch, amassing 370 sorties, over 1300 flight hours, and over 400 arrested landings. The Bangers also celebrated eighteen years and over 41,000 hours mishap free while deployed on WestPac '95. In a ceremony held onboard the Lincoln on 2 September, Commander N. A. "Vito" Trongale

relieved Commander D. T. "Tex" Keuhlen as Commanding Officer of VAW-117. Commander R. D. Jaskot reported aboard as Executive Officer. Returning in October, the Bangers immediately began preparations for WestPac '96 onboard the USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63). In December, the Wallbangers and CVW-11 introduced themselves to the Kitty Hawk during TSTA I/II. Also in December, the Wallbangers were requested by the USCG to provide vital area surveillance for counter narcotics operations conducted off the coast of Southern California.

For their superb accomplishments during 1995, VAW-117 received the COMNAVAIRPAC Battle Efficiency Award (their fifth), their second consecutive CINCPACFLT Annual Pricefighter Excellence Award, and CINCPACFLT's nomination for the Secretary of Defense "Phoenix" Maintenance Award.